

A9. The system of vowels in English

Aim: revise English vowels according to tongue height, backness, length, tenseness, and diphthongs.

Activity 1. Vowel sorting.

Word	Vowel sound	Front / Central / Back	Short / Long / Diphthong
sit			
seat			
cat			
car			
book			
food			
day			
boy			

Activity 2. Minimal pair vowel check.

Pair	Vowel 1	Vowel 2	Meaning difference?
ship - sheep			
bed - bad			
full - fool			
cot - caught			
men - man			

Activity 3. Build a vowel map.

Draw a simple vowel map. Place these sounds approximately: /i:, ɪ, e, æ, ʌ, ɑ:, ɒ, ɔ:, ʊ, u:, ə/.

Activity 4. Diphthong word hunt.

Diphthong	Write two words
/eɪ/	
/aɪ/	
/ɔɪ/	
/əʊ/	
/aʊ/	
/eə/	